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DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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HOW TO BLITZ BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Blood-and-Iron Military Thrillers For West German Teenagers

A second-by-second description of how nazi bombers made a dive-bomb attack on the British royal family in Buckingham Palace is the central episode of one of the latest volumes of cheap militarist fiction for the teen-age market in West Germany.

The volume, the cover of which is reproduced on this page, is entitled "Jabos ueber London" (Fighter-bombers over London). Garnished with a marginal love interest, the volume tells the story "of the flights of German fighter-bomber pilots close over the roofs of London, fired at by the ack-ack and menaced by the barrage balloons, a tale of soldierly and airmanlike courage which won admiration, and not only on the German side."

The booklet, which is on sale at most news-stalls in West Germany and West Berlin (price 60 pfennigs in West Germany, special reduced price of 30 pfennigs in West Berlin) is No. 98 in a series entitled "Der Landser" (German equivalent of "Tommy" or "GI Joe"). Approximately 250,000 copies of each issue of this militarist series are sold.

The crude militarist propaganda of the "Landser" booklet series is so blatant that responsible West German newspapers have been forced to protest. "Die Welt" of Hamburg stated on June 18th:

"These booklets are more than a public scandal. They are an offence against good taste, and not only to good taste, with their impossible and crude use of

(cont. on next page)

'soldiers' jargon', and their stories which are nothing but a series of crimes of violence, presented with unbearable cynicism. In addition they are likely to give the young reader the impression that the war was a big manly adventure, a unique chance for a man to show he was a man, a bath of steel for the nation."

Here are a few sentences from the account given in "Fighter-bombers over London" of the dive-bomb attack on Buckingham Palace:

"The plane of the squadron commander races down towards the city area round Buckingham Palace. Anti-aircraft shells whistle by, but the deep concentration of the pilot makes them appear harmless. His eyes seek for the target: perhaps it is that huge house half left. Only a few seconds remain before the bombs will fall. The many-winged building is still in the sights . . . Another second, and yet another. Then Schweikert presses the bomb release . . .

"The royal couple have entered one of the rooms in the first floor of the palace. The king goes to one of the windows and looks into the courtyard. He raises his head as he hears the noise of planes . . . With a fixed stare the king, who has remained in the old palace despite the heavy air-raids, watches a string of three one-engined planes which dive down between the barrage balloons. The howling of the speeding planes becomes ever more infernal . . .

"The air pressure of two bomb explosions smashes the windows; huge columns of fire rise from the earth.

"The force of the explosion makes the lonely figure at the window of the palace stagger back a few paces. Standing next to the woman who wears the crown of Britain, the Monarch watches the bursting window-panes.

"Outside other planes come howling down, into the barking of the ack-ack and the thunder of the explosions.

"Suddenly an old man in court livery stands next to the king. His face is the colour of wax. 'Your Majesty!' he stammers.

"The king only laughs, and looks out into the courtyard, where two holes yawn in the earth, not more than eighty metres from the wall of the room."

"Be Proud of Your Nazi Past" — Says U. S. Admiral

Ceremonies attending the delivery of American destroyers to the West German Navy were highlighted by a speech to the sailors and officers by US Admiral Burke, according to the "Deutsche Soldatenzeitung", pro-nazi war veterans' newspaper in West Germany in its June issue. The following quotes from his speech are translated from that newspaper:

"... In the past the German Navy was respected by friend and foe alike because of its sailors and its daring. This respect was not for nothing, but was well-earned, earned with hard work, in tough battles, by good seamanship, by holding to their guns through thick and thin, by bravery and by being real sailors. This respect was given fully to the German Navy and to the German destroyer crews. Seamen everywhere know that well, and they remember, too, that when World War II came to an end, the Navy was still an intact military organisation, still capable of carrying out orders. You who are members of this Navy can be proud of your traditions, proud that you have been selected to maintain this fame. You may be proud that you are a part of armed forces which are ready to defend the freedom of the individual and the freedom of Germany."

The rest of the booklet consists of an infantile account of the dreary "heroism" of the nazi pilots who made this attack on an obviously civilian target. It is important to note that the booklet makes no attempt at all to condemn air-raids on non-military targets.

Each volume of the "Landser" series devotes one page to notable dates in the history of World War Two. Here are some of the memorable dates quoted in "Fighter-bombers over London":

14. 11. to 19. 11. 1940: Air raids on Coventry and Birmingham.

24. 11. 40: Massed raid of the Luftwaffe on Southampton.

25. 11. 40: Bristol in the centre of German air attacks.

29. 11. 40: Massed attack of the Luftwaffe on London.

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Here are a few extracts from other booklets of the "Landser" series:

"Shouting and yelling, the German soldiers bore down on the enemy. They have lost all fear and restraint, they press their guns to their hips, lower their bayonets, and with a few steps are amongst the New Zealanders. Rifle-butts crash into faces, bayonets sink crunchingly into human bodies, and machine-pistols mow down the English in rows."

("The Hell of Monte Cassino", page 63)

"Kubalke was consumed with hatred for the enemy who lay on the street . . . He kicked the comrade (Yugoslav soldier, ed.) in the bottom and shouted 'Get up you bastard'. Then his machine-pistol spat lead, and he shot him up."

("Special Operation Skoplje", page 21)

"Political soldierdom is an absolute necessity. It is no coincidence that the Waffen SS, which had political indoctrination from the very beginning, fought so exceptionally well."

("Holders of the Knight's Cross Tell Their Story" Vol. 1)

POCKET CARTOON
by OSBERT LANCASTER

"Ja, the Herr Doktor's wonderfully well, thank you, but if you could remember not to mention Mr. Rhee, Mr. Menderes, or Mr. Kishi—?"

(from "Daily Express", London)

W. Germany Wants More Arms

Social Democrats Capitulate

The West German Wehrmacht, already the most powerful army in western Europe, must be strengthened; the West German Wehrmacht must be equipped with the most modern atomic weapons; the West German Government rejects all plans for disengagement in Europe, and all plans for a negotiated solution of the German problem.

These were the main points made by Government spokesmen in the vital foreign policy debate in the West German Parliament on June 30th. Official Social Democratic spokesmen abandoned their former policy of cautious opposition to Adenauer's cold war policies, and expressed full support for NATO and the West German Wehrmacht. The Social Democratic speakers announced that their party had abandoned its former support for disengagement in Europe and a negotiated solution of the German question.

Opening the debate, West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano stated:

"The danger in which we stand demands that we should step up our efforts to strengthen our defences. We must build up the strength of the West German army, so that there should be no weak spots in the western defence system ... The Federal Government regards as nonsensical all ideas and plans for a so-called disengagement in the geographically limited area of Europe ...

"There can be no compromise on the question of German unity. The laws of the Federal Republic will also be valid for a reunited Germany. Our Federal Republic is not an accidental form of state, but the final expression of the ideal state of the German people. It is not in any way a provisional state.

"This fact absolutely forbids us to have any so-called negotiations with the Bolshevist functionaries who claim to represent the German people in the Soviet-occupied zone (German Democratic Republic, ed.)."

Other government speakers urged that the West German army must be provided with the most modern weapons, meaning nuclear weapons.

The parliamentary fraction of the West German Social Democratic Party, which has previously supported plans for an atom-free zone, and called for a negotiated solution of the German question based upon West German withdrawal from NATO and East German withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact, capitulated all along the line in the parliamentary debate on June 30th.

Social Democratic foreign policy spokesmen Herbert Wehner, speaking in the name of the parliamentary fraction, stated:

"There need be no argument between the democratic parties in the Federal Republic on foreign policy. The Social Democratic Party bases itself upon the fact that the membership of the Federal Republic in NATO is the foundation and framework for all efforts in foreign policy and reunification policy. The Social Democratic Party has no intention of asking the Federal Republic to leave NATO. The Social Democratic Party is in favour of the national defence programme. The Social Democratic 'Germany Plan' (which called for disengagement and negotiations with the German Democratic Republic, ed.) now belongs to the past."

In the course of the debate, West German War Minister Franz-Josef Strauss made the admission that young West Germans did not support the cold war policy. He said:

"It would be quite impossible for us to provide our contribution of 360,000 men to NATO, it would be quite impossible to build our 12 divisions and our 20 air squadrons, if we did not have conscription ... In meetings which I hold up and down the country I encounter massive opposition to our defence policy: it does not come just from the communists, and it does not come from the older generation which has been able to gain experience: it comes mainly from the youth."

Algerian Govt. Delegation in GDR

An official delegation of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic visited the German Democratic Republic from June 21st to 28th. The delegation was led by Mabrouk Belhussein, General Secretary of the Foreign Ministry of the Algerian Republic.

During its visit questions of interest to both sides were discussed in a frank and friendly atmosphere, it was officially announced. The conversations would be continued at a future date.

The Algerian Government delegation also met Algerian citizens resident in Democratic Germany. Many young Algerians are studying at GDR universities, and wounded and crippled soldiers of the Algerian National Liberation Army are receiving treatment in GDR hospitals.

Greetings to Congo Republic

Democratic Germany's Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl telegraphed Patrice Lumumba at the end of June, congratulating him on his appointment as first Prime Minister of the independent Congo Republic, formerly Belgian Congo.

Prime Minister Grotewohl's message stated: "Please accept my best wishes that your government may strengthen the independence of Congo for the good of the Congo people and in the cause of peace. I hope that normal relations will develop between our two states. I would like to assure you that the German Democratic Republic is a true friend of the Congo Republic."

Similar messages of congratulation were dispatched by GDR President Wilhelm Pieck to Congo President Joseph Kasavubu, and by GDR Parliament Chairman Johannes Dieckmann to Congo Parliament Chairman Joseph Kasongo.

HERMANN ABS, WAR CRIMINAL - Today W. Germany's Top Banker

West Germany is filled with men who were leaders in the Hitler days and who are leaders again today. One of the most important of these men is Hermann Josef Abs, Hitler's financial adviser, a convicted war criminal, and today again the top banker in West Germany.

He is "one of Dr Adenauer's most influential advisers", says "The Times" of London and a man whom the Chancellor "values more highly than any of his Cabinet ministers," according to the West German "Spiegel".

The reason why Abs was so powerful in the years before 1945 and is back in power today is very simple; he was and is the head of the Deutsche Bank, the main financial power in both Hitler and Adenauer Germany.

Before Nazi Germany's defeat, six huge banks controlled both finance and industry; of these six, the largest and most powerful was the Deutsche Bank of Hermann Abs.

The "Allgemeine Zeitung", once official US Army German-language newspaper, stated on November 4th 1945:

"These banks used their economic power to advance National Socialist aims and to finance the German war industry. The American military authorities are considering filing charges of war crimes . . . The charges include the exploitation of forced labour and looting of public property in the lands occupied by Germany . . . The interlocking connections between the Big Six (banks) and the Third Reich, the Nazi Party and the Wehrmacht and their active participation in unleashing and waging Hitler's war of aggression have been proved."

In August 1946, Hermann Abs took first place on a list of leading industrialists and financiers against whom the USA was gathering evidence with a view to prosecution (see photostat on next page). Other persons on the list, such as Alfried Krupp, Friedrich Flick, and Dr Ambros, Max Ilgner and Fritz ter Meer of I. G. Farben, were tried and convicted of war crimes, but Abs was clever enough to stay out of the American Zone until the beginning of the cold war caused the Americans to junk their sporadic denazification policy and put the old gang back in power.

"Smile, and smile, and be a villain".
Banker Abs today.

On November 21st 1945, in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, Abs had been sentenced in absentia to fifteen years of hard labour for having "helped enemy enterprises in Yugoslavia, financed trade with Germany and supported the German war industry."

In November 1946 the US Office of Military Government in Germany issued a report stating:

"Abs was the guiding spirit of the treacherous Deutsche Bank, which combined an unusual concentration of economic power with active collaboration in the criminal policies of the nazi regime . . . Hermann Abs' Deutsche Bank acted as a top-ranking agent of the German Government and served the economic penetration of the satellite states and the occupied countries of Europe. Abs repaid the advantages granted to him and to his bank by playing an active role in the various organisations and economic committees organised by the nazis . . .

"The Foreign Department of the Deutsche Bank rested in the hands of four men who worked under the supervision of Hermann Abs. He devoted his entire attention to extending German domination through Europe."

But by 1948 the anti-nazi investigations had largely turned into white-washing agencies, and a Western Allied Commission which investigated Abs found that "Abs had indeed held high positions in the banking field, but had not belonged to the Nazi Party" and was cleared for future jobs and activities.

But this excuse, which Abs always refers to when attacked, really means nothing. As the American "Allgemeine Zeitung" had pointed out on November 4th 1945: "It does not really matter whether the directors and managers (of the Big Six banks, the ed.) themselves belonged to the Nazi Party in view of their direct part in financing the war of aggression."

Hermann Abs' personal part in this aggression had been considerable. Born in Bonn in 1901, he had first studied law and then turned his attention to banking and international finance. In 1937 he became the youngest board member of the Deutsche Bank as well as the head of its giant Foreign Department. He was soon to become the main director of the bank, and in this capacity more and more other directorships fell into his lap as Hitler conquered one country after another. Here is a list of some of them:

1. Occupied Austria — Creditanstalt-Bankverein — Deputy Chairman of the Board
2. Occupied Czechoslovakia — Boehmische Union-Bank — Director
3. Occupied Netherlands — Handel-Maatschappij Co. — Chairman of the Board
4. Occupied Luxembourg — Generalbank — Deputy Chairman of the Board
5. (Japanese-occupied) Shanghai — Deutsch-Asiatische Bank — Deputy Chairman of the Board
6. Occupied Yugoslavia — Landesbank fuer Bosnien und Hercegovina — Director
7. Occupied Yugoslavia — Allgemeiner Jugoslawischer Bank-Verein — Member of the Board

His main attention was directed to the Balkans and especially Yugoslavia, and in Spring 1942 he undertook a study trip through this area to examine all possibilities for using its mineral wealth in the nazi war effort. (These activities were later the basis for his sentence in the Yugoslav war crimes trial).

By 1940 he already held important posts in at least 40 firms other than

the Deutsche Bank. These included not only the looted companies of occupied Europe but also top German concerns like the Zeiss Ikon camera firm, the Kontinentale oil company, which plundered the oil resources of Roumania, Poland and the Caucasus, the Frankfurt Metal Co. and the German Weapons and Munitions Factories.

The most important of these posts was certainly in the I. G. Farben Company, where he was a director — a member of the so-called "Council of the Gods", as the Board of Directors was called. This meant that he profited from and was co-responsible for all of I. G. Farben's war crimes — like sending 12,180 kilogrammes of Zyklon gas in 1943 alone to Auschwitz concentration camps for "special purposes" and working other concentration camp prisoners to death to produce for war industry.

He also held another interesting post — as member of the advisory council of the Reichsbank. In its vaults the Reichsbank stored the gold taken from the teeth of murdered victims in the concentration camps. According to testimony at the Nuremberg Trials, "76 shipments of this blood-stained SS loot" — valued at more than 60 million marks — were sent to the Reichsbank.

One more article about Hermann Abs is worth citing. "L'Ordre de Paris" of October 29th 1947 quoted Congressman Adolph J. Sabath of Illinois for the following report:

"The great banks, and at their head, the Deutsche Bank, played an exceedingly important role in building up the nazi regime. At the head of the Deutsche Bank could be found Hermann Abs, who was more powerful than Schacht himself. Two days before the fall of Berlin, he was given the opportunity of crossing the British lines with 7 million marks in liquid assets to install his business in Hamburg, in the British Zone. He has since then been very active as the economic adviser and financier of the Commander in Chief of the British Zone, Sir Sholto Douglas."

That was how Abs weathered the brief de-nazification storm and by 1948 he had obtained his clean bill of health from the Allied Commission. His climb back up the ladder was rapid, due especially to three main trumps — his money, his connections with international finance, and his close friendship with Konrad Adenauer.

In 1948 he became a director in the Dutch-British Shell Oil concern and the big German electrical firm Siemens. Then he became a director and later the President of the Reconstruction Bank — the government institution for directing Marshall Plan investments into the German economy and an extremely important position for making and controlling money on a large scale.

In 1949 he took a trip to America to confer with leading bankers and officials. But the war had not yet been forgotten, and Senator Guy M. Gillette of Iowa protested the visit strongly. In a letter to the State Department he referred to reports from military authorities showing that Abs was a close collaborator of Hitler and said that "it becomes evident that the public interest is not best served by allowing a man with such a record to make unpublicised journeys to the United States for any purpose whatever."

But the State Department covered up for Abs, and he was destined to make many more visits to the United States and other western countries in the years ahead.

His next big job was in London, where between 1951 and 1953 he conducted the negotiations with the creditors of pre-war Germany and finally signed the London Agreement on German External Debts. This opened the way for West German circles into the western world's financial markets — and earned Abs the Great Federal Merit Cross with Star from the hand of his friend Konrad Adenauer.

Abs has popped up constantly in the past years — in new jobs and new countries — but always as a symbol of West German financial power at home and abroad.

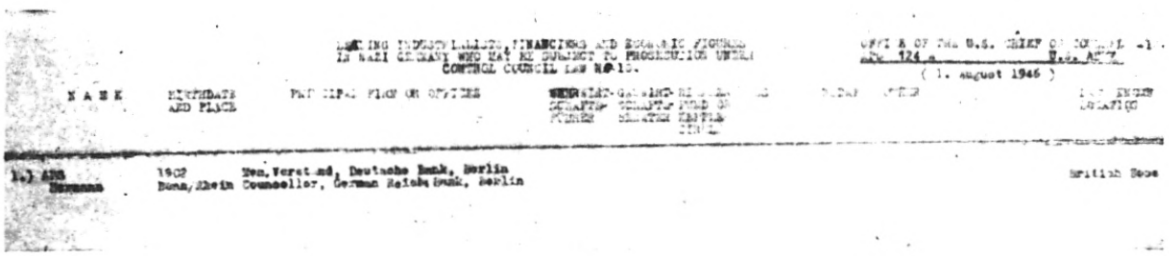
In 1954 he surprised politicians by making the main economic speech at the convention of Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union. Speculation was widespread that he might become Defence Minister, Finance Minister or even Foreign Minister, but Abs, after showing his power, decided to work from behind the scenes.

He has led constant government delegations to Washington to try to get back the German investments which were confiscated there during the war — they are estimated at $450,000,000, and a sizable chunk belongs to him personally. US Senator Smathers stated on April 4th 1957 that he had proofs of bribery to get Congress to pass a law returning German property — and he believed that Abs was handing out the bribes. ("Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung", April 6th 1957)

In April 1955 Hermann Abs had a personal audience with Franco in Madrid, which also honoured him with an official banquet. He used the visit to renew old business connections from before 1945 and to bring West Germany and Fascist Spain closer together. Abs is a leader of the German-Spanish Society and a director in several Spanish and joint Spanish-German firms.

Abs has also been elected to the board of the Magnum Fund, Inc. in Canada which has large investments in Latin America.

He also helped found a Geneva organisation — the International Study Association for Promoting and Protecting Private Investments in Foreign Countries. This has always been a main interest of his and he made news in October 1957 at a conference of millionaires in San Francisco by demanding a "Magna Carta for foreign investments" to protect them against confiscation and nationalisation — such as in Iran, Guatemala and Cuba. Such an international ruling, according to the London



NAME	BIRTHDATE AND PLACE	PRESENT PLACE OF OFFICE			
1.) ABS, Hermann	1902 Bonn/Rhein	Gen. Vorst.md., Deutsche Bank, Berlin Counsellor, German Reichsbank, Berlin			British Zone

Hermann Abs was No. 1 on this list of "Leading Industrialists, Financiers and Economic Figures of Nazi Germany who may be subject to prosecution under Control Council Law No. 10" drawn up by the U.S. Army Chief of Counsel on August 1st 1946.

"Times", would "certainly help the German lobby in Washington in its efforts to release German property sequestered during the war." (November 27th 1957)

Hermann Abs' main financial base today is exactly the same as it was in the days of Hitler — the Deutsche Bank. Although the Allies dissolved the Big Six banks into 33 little regional banks, it was not long before the young Federal Republic passed a law permitting the formation of nine large banks.

Then, at the beginning of 1957, they were permitted to merge again; three huge financial giants were the result — the Deutsche Bank, the Dresdner Bank and the Commerz Bank. Of the three, the largest and most influential is the Deutsche Bank with Hermann Josef Abs at its head — everything is just like it was in the "good old days" with Hitler.

Abs is a living symbol of the control which the Deutsche Bank exerts over an estimated 400 West German firms. He holds more positions as director or board chairman and vice chairman than any other man in West Germany.

Abs is Chairman of the Board of the Daimler-Benz Corporation, makers of Mercedes autos and military equipment, he is back as director of the Zeiss Ikon firm and the Frankfurt Metal Company (largest West German non-ferrous metal producers), he holds positions with mining firms, shoe monopolies, rubber factories, machinery producers, a celluloid company, a sugar monopoly, electrical and power firms and even a champagne firm.

Three fields of Hermann Abs' endeavour are especially important. The cinema field in West Germany is dominated by two giants — both famous for their close ties with the nazi regime, both dissolved after the war and then permitted to regain power. One is Bavaria, the other UFA, and both are controlled by the Deutsche Bank of Hermann Abs — which gives him immense power to influence public opinion in West Germany and all other countries where these films — some of them almost openly pro-nazi — are exported.

Then there is I. G. Farben again. This huge cartel with the war criminal past was also dissolved after the war. Now there are three huge "daughter firms" — which have not as yet merged but are already extremely powerful in their own right in the chemical industry. The largest is the Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik (BASF) in Ludwigshafen on the Rhine — with its 30,000 employees, it is one of the most important firms in West Germany. The Chairman of the Board of BASF is, of course, Hermann J. Abs.

During the war years, Hermann Abs was a member of Hitler's "Russia Committee of the German Economy" — aimed at exploiting the resources of a conquered and colonialised Soviet Union. It is not surprising to learn that Abs is today a top leader of a group in Luxembourg called the European Consortium for the Development of the Natural Resources of Africa. When one recalls his Yugoslav experience, it is interesting to note that he was chosen by the World Bank last January as one of a three-man team of financiers to report on the possibilities of financial investment in India and Pakistan. Adenauer's favourite Hermann Abs and his Deutsche Bank are back at work penetrating other countries, trying to preserve colonialism and hoping for the day when they can move again to reconquer eastern Europe.

GDR STANDARDISATION IMPRESSES FRENCH

A report on the great strides in industrial development in Democratic Germany was summarised in the French newspaper "Libération" on June 7th. The report, compiled by French Inspector General Jannes and distributed to members of the Senate Finance Committee in Paris by Senator Pellenc, is condensed below:

"The first point made by Pellenc is the rapid rate of development in the GDR. Less favoured with natural resources than West Germany, obliged to pay heavy war reparations until 1953 (ten times as much per capita as in the West) and, despite the fact that denazification had really been carried out effectively without any credits from other countries (East Germany received no credits at all before 1953, while the West got sums averaging 333 marks per person), nevertheless the Democratic Republic has pushed ahead more rapidly then the Federal Republic.

"The rate of industrial growth on a per capita basis is clearly more than the rate recorded in Bonn, and the National Statistics Institute writes that one can now discern 'that the time is really near when the living standard of the people in East Germany will catch up with that of West Germany.'

"As a result ... one must be prepared, in a few years time, to see a rate of industrial development in the East which is double that of the West.

"What lends even more credibility to this report to the Finance Committee is the long-range prospect which the systematic introduction of automation opens up for the socialist countries. There has been a big educational campaign on this question in the GDR this past year, and the report compiled by Engineer Jannes analyses an important exhibition held in Leipzig last December.

"The exhibition's main aim was to show the great increase in productivity made possible by coordinating the whole economy and by the processes of standardisation, factory specialisation and automation.

"These three processes are not new, of course, and western factory managers know them well; but, as Jannes points out, 'it is not the ideas themselves but rather the scale on which they are implemented which has surpassed anything done so far in this field.' He mentions the following examples which he noted at the Leipzig exhibition:

"Instead of the great number of small electric motors now in production, in the future only a fifth as many kinds will be made — this will permit an increase of 675% in productivity ...

"The number of piping types for chemical plants will be cut from 249 to 106.

"Only 3 kinds of water taps for the household will be manufactured (there are 1134 kinds in France) and 12 different types of flats will be constructed (in France, flats are now built with 40,000 different designs). There will be 3 types of washing machines, each in three sizes, as compared with 300 types in France.

"Instructions for the machine tool industry impressed Jannes greatly. Motors, construction parts, gear units must be made so that they can be exchanged from one machine to another — somewhat like the 'electro-mechanical heads' idea at the Renault Works. But where the Renault experiment has remained relatively isolated in France, Jannes emphasises, in the GDR there is 'something fully new — official approval by the government and wide propagation of the idea on a nation-wide level; since machine tools are the basis for the whole machinery industry, this orientation cannot fail to have profound consequences in terms of the ability to compete on the economic level.'

'GRAND OLD MAN' DIES

Hermann Duncker, 67 Years a Socialist

Hermann Duncker, one of the grand old men of the German socialist movement, died in Berlin on June 22nd at the age of 87. Whole generations of German socialists and communists owed their first introduction to scientific socialism to Hermann Duncker's work. Until shortly before his death he was active in socialist education as director of the central training school of the Free German Trade Union Federation.

Duncker had been organised in the working-class movement since 1893, when he joined the Leipzig branch of the Social Democratic Party at the age of 19. In the same year he ceased to study music, and transferred to the study of economics, history and philosophy.

In 1903 he took his doctorate, and began work as a socialist propagandist — as editorial worker on the "Leipziger Volkszeitung", organ of the left wing of the Social Democratic Party, which was edited by Rosa Luxemburg and Franz Mehring. He was one of the closest friends of Rosa Luxemburg until 1919, when she was murdered by fore-runners of the nazi movement.

Hermann Duncker showed himself such a good socialist propagandist that in 1907 the Central Board of the Social Democratic Party appointed him as its first "itinerant teacher", and for the next four years he toured the whole of Germany lecturing. In 1911 he was appointed teacher at the Central Party School in Berlin. The historic picture reproduced on this page shows him as a teacher at this school, the first of its kind in the world, in the company of others who became famous in the international socialist movement, including Rosa Luxemburg and Wilhelm Pieck, today President of the German Democratic Republic.

After the outbreak of World War One, Hermann Duncker cooperated with Karl Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg, Clara Zetkin, Wilhelm Pieck and others in forming the "International Group", which opposed the support given to the imperialist war by the majority of the leadership of the German Social Democratic Party. Later in the war this group developed into the Spartakus Movement, and Hermann Duncker was one of the most active producers and distributors of illegal revolutionary propaganda, including the famous "Spartakus Letters".

A 1912 photo of the Social Democratic Party School in Berlin. In the front Rosa Luxemburg (××) behind her Hermann Duncker (×). Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic, stands at extreme left.

On November 9th 1918, when armed workers and revolutionary soldiers chased the Kaiser out of Berlin, Hermann Duncker took personal command of a detachment of revolutionary sailors. With their support he seized the offices of the "Lokal Anzeiger", a reactionary Berlin newspaper, and by a miracle of hard work got the first issue of the Spartakist newspaper "Die Rote Fahne" (The Red Flag) on sale the same afternoon.

When the Spartakus Movement reorganised itself as the German Communist Party at the end of 1918, Hermann Duncker was elected to the first Central Committee, along with Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.

During the 14 years of the Weimar Republic, Hermann Duncker continued with his Marxist propaganda, establishing and running the "Marxist Worker's School", and editing the "Little Lenin Libary", a series of condensed Marxist classics many of which were also published in English translation.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, Hermann Duncker was one of the first communists to be arrested, and served a term of imprisonment in Brandenburg Jail. On his release he fled to Denmark, later to England and then to France. After the outbreak of World War Two, at the age of nearly 70, he was interned in Morocco, but managed to make his way to the United States, where he remained for the rest of the war, active as ever in the anti-fascist struggle.

He returned to Germany in 1947, and in 1949 became director of the central training school of the Free German Trade Union Federation in the German Democratic Republic, the post he held until his death.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

Franz Josef Strauss, the bull-like former National Socialist indoctrination officer who is today West German Minister of Defence, fancies himself in all sorts of roles — jovial man of the world, great lover, and possible heir to the throne of Kaiser Adenauer. He also fancies his rather fragmentary knowledge of English.

When visiting the United States in June on a mission to buy new atom-rockets for his Wehrmacht, he threw an audience of top-ranking American officers into absolute confusion by roaring at them in his peculiar Teutonic English: "We must do everything to strengthen the left wing". The confusion was only cleared up when an interpreter managed to explain that Strauss was not a Red. He was only referring to the left flank of the NATO forces in Europe.

Slap-Happy

The slap-happy way in which the West German authorities have gone about the task of rounding up nazi killers has perhaps never been better exemplified than in the case of Wilhelm Koppe, former SS General who was Hitler's police chief in "Wartheland", the nazi name for the western part of occupied Poland. In this position he was directly responsible for the death of some hundreds of thousands of Polish citizens, Jewish and non-Jewish.

He lay low for a year after the war, at a time when the British and American authorities in West Germany were still making some sort of effort to bring war criminals to justice, but as soon as the heat was off he reappeared in public life in the very harmless role of a chocolate magnate. The only step he took to conceal his identity was to change his name by deed poll to Wilhelm Lohmann, his wife's maiden name.

Big Parties

As an important industrialist he gave big parties in Bonn to top political and business leaders. Many hundreds of them must have known his true identity, since as Wilhelm Koppe he had been a public figure too: he was a member of the nazi Reichstag; his photo and biographical details appeared in all the nazi reference books. His son is a successful Bonn lawyer and legal adviser to the Chairman of the West German Parliament; his daughter Ursula is married to Colonel Baron Arnold von Rothberg, top-flight official in the West German Defence Ministry who worked for a period as West German liaison officer with NATO in Paris. If the West German police had had the slightest interest in tracing him, they would have had no difficulty. But they took no steps at all until the anti-Semitic outrages at the beginning of this year; public opinion both in West Germany and abroad then forced them into a semblance of activity, and Wilhelm Koppe has now, at last, been picked up.

The only excuse that one can find for the West German police is that there are so many unpunished war criminals still running around free in West Germany that they would have to make quite an effort: in addition, since top SS officers hold quite a high percentage of the leading positions in the West German police force, it would really be rather surprising if they did exert themselves.

Of course the fact that Wilhelm Koppe has finally been arrested does not mean that he will ever be brought to trial or sentenced. This is shown clearly by the hair-raising case of another nasty nazi criminal, Professor Erich Hippke, onetime Surgeon-General of the nazi Luftwaffe. Today Professor Hippke is working as a doctor at 26 Holsteinsche Strasse, West Berlin, telephone number 87-37-58.

During the war he was personally responsible for organising a series of revolting "medical" experiments in Dachau Concentration Camp in the course of which prisoners were frozen, and various methods were then used to revive them. In many cases the experiments were unsuccessful, and the human guinea-pigs died.

On October 10th 1942 Professor Hippke wrote a personal note to Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler thanking him for the "great help" he had given in the freezing experiment in Dachau; there are dozens of other letters and reports extant showing Hippke's direct participation in these experiments. A selection of these documents was published as long ago as 1955 in West Berlin in the book "Das Dritte Reich und die Juden" (The Third Reich and the Jews); if the documents had not been genuine, Professor Hippke would undoubtedly have taken legal proceedings. He failed to do this, proving by default that they were in fact genuine.

After years of agitation by concentration camp inmates who had managed to survive the experiments, the West Berlin authorities finally opened investigations against Professor Hippke early this year. Last month, on June 14th, the investigations were closed, and all charges were dropped. A spokesman of the West Berlin legal department said that Professor Hippke had assured the investigators that the experiments were only carried out on volunteer Luftwaffe doctors. The investigators had preferred to take his word rather than the explicit evidence of the original nazi documents, some signed by himself.

So SS General Wilhelm Koppe need not worry too much about the future.

"Jews don't Count"

A Norwegian friend assures me that this story is authentic: When West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano was in Oslo some time ago, he asked Odvar Aas, Press Chief of the Norwegian Foreign Minister, how many Norwegians had been executed during the nazi occupation. "Four thousand" was the reply. "How many Jews?" asked Brentano. "Six hundred of those executed were Norwegian citizens of the Jewish faith". "Oh, I don't count the Jews" said Brentano.

Red Hypnotists

This has nothing much to do with the German problem, but perhaps I can spare a few lines for it. Regular followers of the most popular American comics will know Steve Canyon, a clean-living granite-faced colonel of the US Air Force, who rushes round the globe saving America from "the Reds".

At the time of writing, comic-strip Colonel Canyon is visiting an unnamed state in Latin America, where "the natives" for some inexplicable reason don't like dear old Uncle Sam. Since American air-bases, U 2 flights, and United Fruit are obviously the most lovable things on earth, there has to be some reason for this hostility, and I hasten to report to non-comic-readers what Steve Canyon has discovered: "the Reds" have hypnotised a young American girl, and sent her out to slap policemen's faces, steal pennies from beggars' bowls, and commit assorted mayhem, thus sullying the fair name of Columbia. Those old Red hypnotists must have been working overtime in Japan.

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